

What is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A connector for interconnecting a bare optical fiber to optical equipment, said
2 connector comprising:
3 a ferrule having an axial bore and a terminal end; and
4 a reservoir positioned at said terminal end and in optical communication with said
5 axial bore.
- 1 2. The connector assembly of claim 1, further comprising a predetermined amount of
2 optical coupling fluid within said reservoir.
- 1 3. The connector assembly of claim 2, further comprising an optical fiber positioned
2 within said axial bore and extending into said reservoir.
- 1 4. The connector assembly of claim 3, further comprising an adapter including a
2 through bore, wherein said ferrule coaxially extends within said through bore.
- 1 5. The connector assembly of claim 3, wherein said adapter includes a pressure foot
2 for selectively retaining said ferrule in said through bore.
- 1 6. A connector for interconnecting a bare optical fiber to optical equipment, said
2 connector comprising:
3 a cartridge containing a predetermined quantity of optical fluid; and
4 a ferrule in axial alignment with said cartridge for receiving a bare fiber passed
5 through said cartridge.

1 7. The connector of claim 6, wherein said cartridge comprises an entrance aperture,
2 an exit aperture, and an inner chamber for housing said optical coupling fluid.

1 8. The connector of claim 7, wherein said ferrule includes an inner post having a first
2 end and a second end, and said first and second ends further include first and second divots
3 formed therein, respectively, that are in optical communication with each other.

1 9. The connector of claim 8, further comprising a sleeve releasably engaged with
2 said cartridge and said ferrule, wherein said sleeve axially aligns said exit aperture with said first
3 divot.

1 10. The connector of claim 9, further comprising an end cap including an opening
2 formed in an end thereof, wherein said cartridge extends at least partially through said opening.

1 11. The connector of claim 10, further comprising a bulkhead housing having an axial
2 bore engaging said second end of said inner post.

1 12. The connector of claim 11, further comprising an interface adapted for
2 interconnection to fiber optic patch cable and engaged with said bulkhead housing, wherein said
3 interface includes a port extending axially therethrough.

1 13. The connector of claim 12, further comprising a second sleeve positioned in said
2 axial bore of said housing and in said port of said interface, wherein said second sleeve is axially
3 aligned with said second end of said inner post.

1 14. The connector of claim 13, wherein said end cap is threadably engaged with said
2 bulkhead housing.

1 15. The connector of claim 14, further including a bare fiber extending through said
2 cartridge and in optical communication with said first divot of said ferrule.

1 16. The connector of claim 15, further including a patch cable connected to said
2 interface and engaging said second sleeve, wherein said patch cable includes a fiber core
3 extending through said second sleeve and in optical communication with said second divot.

1 17. A ferrule for use in an optical fiber connector, comprising:
2 an outer housing; and
3 an inner post having a first end and a second end, wherein said first and second
4 ends further include first and second divots formed therein, respectively, that are in optical
5 communication with each other.

1 18 The ferrule of claim 17, wherein said outer housing including defines first and
2 second annular chambers extending around said first and second ends, respectively.

1 19. The ferrule of claim 18, wherein said first and second annular chambers are
2 adapted to receive first and second compression sleeves, respectively, for retaining said first and
3 second ends of said inner post.